

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 31, 2006. Claims 1 - 5 and 10 - 14 are now presented for examination. Claims 1, 5, 10 and 14 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for these amendments is detailed in the remarks that follow. No new matter has been added. Claims 6 - 9 have been canceled.

Claims 1 and 10 are independent.

Favorable review is respectfully requested.

The §102 rejection:

Claims 1 - 6 and 8 - 14 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Aziz et al. (U.S. 2002/0135296 A1).

Claims 1, 5 and 10 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly claim that a buffer layer is provided adjacent to the second electrode and is disposed between the second electrode and the protective film layer. Support for this amendment is found at least in paragraphs 0057 and 0060.

The present invention is directed to preventing the occurrence of dark spots. The present invention has found that the occurrence of dark spots is caused by micro delaminations on the interface between the organic and inorganic layer. The invention provides the placement of a buffer layer adjacent to the electrode and between the electrode and the protective film. This results in a reduction of stress applied to the interface.

Aziz does not teach or suggest the problem of dark spots and does not teach or disclose a buffer layer between the electrode and protective film layer. In contrast, all the various embodiments as illustrated in Figures 1 - 4 of the reference teach the protective film layer contiguous with the electrode. Accordingly, applicants respectfully

believe Aziz does not anticipate Applicants' amended claim 1. Since claims 2 - 5 depend directly from claims 1, and since claim 1, as amended, is believed to be allowable, then claims 2 - 5 are believed to be allowable as well.

Claim 5 has been amended to more particularly claim a thin layer contiguous with the function layer and having a thickness of approximately 0.5nm. Support for this amendment is found at least in paragraph 0058. This enhances the effectiveness of the buffer layer to prevent delamination of the organic-inorganic interface since at a thickness of 0.5nm the interface is effectively the cathode/function layer interface. Therefore applicants respectfully believe claim 5, as amended, is not anticipated by Aziz.

Claim 10 has been amended to more particularly claim that the second electrode is comprised of an upper electrode layer and a lower electrode layer and that the buffer layer is within the second electrode between the upper electrode layer and the lower electrode layer. Support for this amendment is found at least in paragraph 0065. In contrast, none of the various embodiments as illustrated in Figures 1 - 4 of the reference teach a

buffer layer located within either electrode. Accordingly, applicants respectfully believe Aziz does not anticipate applicants' amended claim 10. Since claims 11 - 14 depend directly from claim 10, and since claim 10, as amended, is believed to be allowable, then claims 11 - 14 are believed to be allowable as well.

Claim 14 has been amended to more particularly claim a thin layer contiguous with the function layer and having a thickness of approximately 0.5nm. Support for this amendment is found at least in paragraph 0058. This enhances the effectiveness of the buffer layer to prevent delamination of the organic-inorganic interface since at a thickness of 0.5nm the interface is effectively the cathode/function layer interface. Therefore applicants respectfully believe claim 14, as amended, is not anticipated by Aziz.

Claims 6, 8 and 9 have been canceled thereby rendering their rejection moot.

The §103 rejection:

Claim 7 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aziz et al. (U.S. 2002/0135296 A1) in view of Hosokawa et al. (U.S. 6,157,127).

Claim 7 has been canceled thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Summary:

In view of all the preceding amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that any objections or rejections to this application be reconsidered and withdrawn. Further action with respect to the present application is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner finds this application is deficient in any respect, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest possible convenience.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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